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Agenda item 8

# DRAFT REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE FIRST PART OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION

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Addendum

## REPORTS OF THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT

1. At its 3rd and 4th meetings on 16 and 17 May 1994, the Committee considered the report of JIU entitled "Staffing of the United Nations peace-keeping and related missions (civilian component)" (A/48/421) and the related comments of the Secretary-General (A/48/421/Add.1).

### Discussion

2. A number of delegations supported the idea that the Department of Peace-keeping Operations should become the central department for dealing with peace-keeping operations.

3. A number of delegations spoke in favour of further strengthening the 24-hour situation room and felt that that problem should be further discussed in the Fifth Committee.

4. A number of delegations supported the recommendation on the wider use of United Nations retirees, but they drew attention to the necessity to reconsider the financial aspects of the problem.

5. A number of delegations expressed misgiving in connection with recommendation III (c) on the more extensive recruitment and wider functions of the United Nations Volunteers (UNVs). Those delegations stressed that

participation in peace-keeping operations should not detract from the main sphere of activity of UNVs: assistance for economic development and technical cooperation.

6. Other delegations stressed the importance, for the United Nations, of increasing the participation of qualified civilian personnel from all Member States in peace-keeping operations. Furthermore, they stressed the necessity to keep Governments informed of modalities and deadlines for the recruitment of those personnel and the need to help in their training prior to, and during, the mission. Those delegations expressed the need to increase hazard pay within those missions, especially for such personnel not subject to conditions of service with the United Nations (see A/48/421, para. 115).

7. A number of delegations expressed the view that the presentation of such a report reflected certain positive developments in the activity of JIU.

8. Some delegations expressed the opinion that the participation of United Nations personnel in peace-keeping missions continued to be voluntary, but with application of the principle of rotation. Other delegations expressed the opinion that the application of that principle as well as the criteria for maintaining vacant posts at Headquarters should be reviewed in the light of experience gained since the JIU report was completed.

9. A number of delegations noted with satisfaction that peace-keeping was one of four priority areas in the 1994-1995 work programme of JIU.

## Conclusions and recommendations

10. The Committee noted with appreciation the high quality of the report and the timeliness of its presentation. It expressed agreement with the diagnosis of the imperfections in the civilian component of the staffing of United Nations peace-keeping and related missions.

11. The Committee noted that the report had been commented upon favourably by the Secretary-General and some of its recommendations had already been implemented. The report was also under consideration in the Fifth and Special Political and Decolonization Committees and was referred to in resolution 48/42 adopted by the General Assembly on 10 December 1993.

12. The Committee supported the thrust of the recommendations. At the same time, the Committee considered it necessary that some recommendations, in particular those on recruitment, should be discussed further in the Fifth Committee.

13. The Committee stressed that further efforts should be made to enhance the security of civilian personnel participating in peace-keeping operations.

14. The Committee stressed that a specific code of conduct must be prepared and provided to all mission participants.

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